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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

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THE GIRLS OF SUMMER: (from left) Sophia Dvorkina, Alexandra Cherkas, Adelynn Vazrai, Isabella Vinokurov, Frances Levin, Natalia Volisova and Rachel Broytman, all from Brighton Beach, enjoyed a hot day at Coney Island before last weekend's official opening.

CONEY (ALMOST) READY TO PLAY

By Courtney Donahue
The Brooklyn Paper

Coney Island's new amusement park made its brief debut this weekend, before closing for more renovations. Luna Park, the first new amusement area to open in the hard-luck "People's Playground" in almost 50 years, entertained and thrilled the public for the first time on Saturday, one day after the politicians and the well-connected got their first brief looksee.

The sneak-peak last Friday gave some families a chance to try out the much-anticipated amusement park, but only allowed visitors on a handful of rides — most of the "kiddie" variety.

Brian Gottlieb, a member of Community Board 13, said the preview was still a success.

"I saw lots of smiling faces, children

BOARDWALK OR SIDEWALK?
SEE PAGE 2

that were there seemed to be very happy, enjoying the rides. That's what Coney Island's all about."

Officials had just 14 out of the 19 rides open to the public on Saturday, including Wild River and The Tickler, a twisting coaster with rapid-fire drops.

And that good news gave Borough President Markowitz a chance to do what he does best:

"Back at the turn of the 20th century, people called the amazing Luna Park an "Electric Eden" — and now

after 66 years, we've got a new Luna Park for the 21st century," said the irrepressible Boop.

For now, Luna Park will be closed until mid-June, before maintaining a seven-day-a-week schedule through Labor Day. The three-acre park will be open on weekends after that, through Columbus Day.

Once completed, the amusement park's rides will also include:

- **Air Race** — This thrill ride simulates the experience of fighter pilots and sends riders upside-down at up to 4G's of force.

- **Balloon Expedition** — This family-friendly ride allows visitors to explore Coney Island from 40 feet in the air.

- **Beach Shack** — This family ride

See CONEY on page 14

Kent do that

Two workers claim they were fired just for trying to organize a union

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Two former employees at a luxury rental building on the posh Williamsburg waterfront say they were fired for trying to organize a union among coworkers to improve their working conditions.

Jose Guzman, a concierge who earned \$14 an hour, and Peniel Martinez, a handyman who worked \$18 an hour, worked at 184 Kent, the former Austin Nichols warehouse, until May 20, when the building's management laid them off.

Guzman, the head concierge since the building opened in January, regularly worked 10- to 13-hour days without receiving overtime pay. When he got sick, he took the day off, at his own financial expense.

He began inquiring about improving working conditions when he noticed workers being exposed to paint fumes and cement dust from construction work inside the building. None of the workers have health benefits or paid sick leave.

"The reason why I wanted to union-



Handyman Peniel Martinez says he and concierge Jose Guzman were fired from 184 Kent Avenue after trying to organize a union.

ize was looking for better conditions and my health was questionable breathing in fumes," said Guzman.

See KENT on page 5



Prospect Park groundskeeper Dwayne Anderson worked all day on Monday cleaning up after everyone else's fun.

Dog danger

Garbage, charcoal dumped in Park makes pet owners livid

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Dog lovers were barking mad on Tuesday morning as they arrived in Prospect Park to find their beloved meadow peppered with chicken legs and charcoal — though park officials say the post-Memorial Day litter could have been much worse.

The swaths of rubbish on the green meadows were nowhere to be found —



portion of Prospect Park lake.

park employees had managed to gather much of the trash and pile it up for collection, but a small group of activists from FIDO, a dog-advocacy group, still managed to fill up at least six bags of trash at the peninsula near the northwestern portion of Prospect Park lake.

"There is no enforcement [of park regulations]," said Angelo Izzi, who

SI Republicans pick Allegretti

By Helen Klein
The Brooklyn Paper

Staten Island's Republican Party has finally settled on a candidate — and it's the guy from Brooklyn!

One day after the county party organization was snubbed in its effort to draft disgraced former Rep. Vito Fossella to face Rep. Mike McMahon (D-Bay Ridge), party members nominated Bay Ridge Michael Allegretti to be



the standardbearer. Allegretti — who is battling Michael Grimm for the right to take on McMahon — had previously been endorsed by the Kings County Republican Party. As such, he thinks he's on a roll.

"There was an overwhelming outpouring of support for me from [Staten Island] Republican grass roots advocates last week," he said. "It comes

See GOP on page 14

DeBlasio puts a shingle out

On the street, Advocate plays therapist to an anxious public

By Alex Rush
for The Brooklyn Paper

Just call him Dr. DeBlasio. Public Advocate Bill DeBlasio doesn't have a Ph.D. in psychoanalysis, but his street-side appearance on Tuesday afternoon — billed as his "Public Advocate on the Street" initiative — ended up being more of a therapy session than an exercise in public policy.

DeBlasio and his staff set up a table on Flatbush Avenue in front of the Atlantic Terminal Mall — the Crossroads of Brooklyn, if we have such a thing — to allow random pedestrians to speak with their advocate about any issue.

DeBlasio was looking forward to



CAN WE TALK? Darryl Roberson (left) and James Doe (no, really, that's what he said), bent the public advocate's ear on Tuesday.

mowing those grassroots.

"When you do these set-ups, you hear about problems that you didn't know about and perhaps some solutions you didn't think of," DeBlasio said. "You can use this experience to help people."

But things didn't exactly go as planned. Instead of hearing broad community concerns, DeBlasio spent most of his time playing therapist. Katherine Brann Fredericks whined about her cellphone contract (it really is unfair, the advocate said). Richard Gill complained about the BP oil spill (it really is a major ecological disaster). And Lander Brown is worried that New York State is wasting all the lottery money (that's a bit outside the advocate's ju-

See DEBLASIO on page 5

Reading the sign of the times at Nathan's Famous



WHO'S WHO? SEE PAGE 2

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE
By Gersh Kuntzman

One of America's true sports legends has just been tossed into the dustbin of history at Coney Island.

Last week, the organizers of the Nathan's hot dog eating contest hung a new "Wall of Fame" above the hallowed ground where the annual man-dog war is waged — and Ed "The Mashed Monster" Krachic has been edited out.

Krachic's not the only competitive eating giant who ended up on the scrap heap. Mike "The Scholar" Devito, who earned his nickname because of his scholarly approach to the game of champions, also didn't make the final version. Nor did "Hungry" Charles Hardy, Eric "Bastards" Booker or even Amos Wengler, the "Bard" of Coney Island.

See NATHAN'S on page 2



WHO'S WHO? SEE PAGE 2

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Boardwalk or sidewalk?

Cement to replace Coney Island's renowned trademark

By Joe Maniscalco

The Brooklyn Paper

Concrete is beating out wood at the Coney Island Boardwalk.

A high-ranking Parks Department official said this week that the city is leaning toward replacing the world-famous Riegelmann Boardwalk's wooden planks — which have been marched on for more than 70 years — with concrete.

Even though Parks says it is exploring three different options for rehabilitating the nearly three-mile long boardwalk — wood, concrete, and a synthetic material — concrete clearly has the edge for a typical reason: money.

"When you look at the finances of it, concrete is the cheapest to do," said Martin Maher, the Brooklyn chief of staff for the Parks Department. "I'm completely convinced that at least the substructure needs to be concrete."

According to Maher, replacing the Boardwalk with concrete would cost the city about \$70 per square foot — half of what it pays when rebuilding sections with wood.

But critics say that more concrete substructure is the thing they want to see.

"I see them as a melanoma on the face of the Boardwalk," Robert Burnstein said. "My fear is that it will spread."

Already, traditional wooden planks are being ripped out and replaced with concrete slabs between Ocean Parkway to Brighton First Road, and from West 33rd Street to West 37th Street — something critics think will make the Boardwalk too hot in the summer and perilously icy in the winter.

But Maher dismissed those claims.

"The reality is that concrete since the 1930s has been used in Orchard Beach, and since the '60s at Manhattan Beach and in Rockaway," he said.

That, along with the latest tree-saving boardwalk technologies, will be the death knell for old-fashioned, wooden boardwalks.

"We can continue to build the Boardwalk the way we've been building it," Maher said. "It's not ecologically friendly and it's not lasting."

The city is currently installing three different boardwalk materials on Brighton Beach to Sea Gate to see which fares best. The concrete slabs will range from Ocean Parkway to Brighton First Road in Brighton Beach and from West 33rd to West 37th streets near Sea Gate.

Tropical wood planks are being installed by the amusement from West 10th Street to Stillwell Avenue.



This concrete substructure by Stillwell Avenue will be topped with wood. But sections of the Riegelmann Boardwalk at Brighton Beach and Sea Gate will be replaced with concrete slabs. Eventually, the whole thing might be paved.

NATHAN'S

Continued from page 1

That lump in my throat isn't my 23rd hot dog of the day repeating on me — it's genuine disgust.

Say what you will about competitive eating — that it's repulsive, that it wastes otherwise important hot dogs, that it encourages inner-city kids to neglect schooling in favor of a shot at glory — but one thing you could never say about the game was that it chewed up and spit out its heroes.

Until now.

International Federation of Competitive Eating President George Shea always maintained the highest level of integrity, carefully keeping the sport's dizzying oral history from that very first contest in 1917 to the "dead dog era" of the 1970s (when nine hot dogs and buns was enough to win the coveted Mustard Yellow Interna-

tional Belt) to the Japanese invasion of the 1990s all the way through to the current reign of American legend Joey "Jaws" Chestnut.

But I never thought I'd see the day when Shea would bury his heroes under a pile of gristle.

Heroes? You betcha. "Krachic" was the first American eater to consistently break "the Deuce," the 20 HDB mark that, like the four-minute mile, was thought to be insurmountable. He also revolutionized the game by publishing a scientific paper called "The Belt of Fat Theory" that predicted the rise of a generation of thin eaters. The paper was submitted to the Journal of the American Medical Association, which foolishly passed on it. It was eventually published in The Brooklyn Paper. Naturally.

"Devo was a two-time champion in the early 1990s whose greatest achievement came when he defeated Orto Ito, a tiny Japanese eater, in



George Shea

KEY TO WHO'S WHO

ON PAGE 1

- | THE OLD SIGN | THE NEW SIGN |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The "Bunnettes" | 1. Uncle Sam |
| 2. The Frankster | 2. A "Bunnette" |
| 3. Cary DeGrossa | 3. The Frankster |
| 4. Sonya "Black Widow" Thomas | 4. Takeru Kobayashi |
| 5. "Hungry" Charles Hardy | 5. Patrick Bertolotti |
| 6. Dan "Moses" Lerman | 6. Sonya "Black Widow" Thomas |
| 7. Eric "Badlands" Booker | 7. Tim "Eater X" Janus |
| 8. Takeru Kobayashi | 8. Tim "Gravy" Brown |
| 9. Wayne Norbitz | 9. Julie Lee |
| 10. Nathan's CEO | 10. Joey "Jaws" Chestnut |
| 11. Amos Wengler | 11. Crazy Legs Conti |
| 12. Eric "The Maspeth Monster" Krachic | 12. Little Jimmy |
| 13. "Krazy" Kevin Lipsitz | 13. Nathan's CEO |
| 14. Ed "Cookie" Jarvis | 14. Wayne Norbitz |

ate 7.72 pounds of boneless chicken wings last month in Buffalo? How does that compare to uniting a nation, as Krachic did?

Tim "Gravy" Brown? He's a hero because he once ate 3.74 pounds of fried potato wedges? That's not a champion! Takeru Kobayashi, the greatest eater of all time, once ate 17.7 pounds of pan-seared corn brains. But give Shea time — someday even six-time champion Kobayashi will be crased from our history.

"Fame is fickle," said Shea. "You mock 'Gravy' Brown, but he was featured in a one-hour drama on the Bio channel called, 'I'm a Major League Eater,' and we would need two Mike Devitos or Three Cary DeGrossas to eat what he eats. And Maxim magazine once featured Crazy Legs Conti in a spread of him doing the town in a white stretch limo with a monkey. Is there a higher degree of fame than that?"

"Basically, you are a sad little man — sad that your era has faded," Shea added. "You are like the Brooklyn Dodger fan always talking about how Ralph Branca was better than Tom Seaver. Ralph Branca? He is a 10 HDB man compared to Seaver."

Yet beneath the bluster, I detected a note of caution in Shea's tone. I pressed him on the Krachic snub. Face it, it sticks in the craw like a burp that just won't come up.

"OK, you got me," Shea said, actually welling up. "I am going to send a formal complaint to Nathan's. Krachic's fame is the platform on which all of these other eaters have been able to compete and assume a place in our larger culture."

"He is more than an eater," Shea concluded. "He is an institution."

Case closed.

Of course, Shea dismissed my carping as the complaints of a man out of step with the sport as it enters its 11th decade.

"The question is this: Do you listen to Lady Gaga or The Who?" Shea asked. "The bottom line is that it's a 'Wall of Fame.' None of the people you mentioned, plus Dan 'Moses' Lerman, 'Krazy' Kevin Lipsitz or Ed 'Cookie' Jarvis, have fame anymore. The guys on that wall now have eclipsed all of them."

Eclipse? Tim "Eater X" Janus? What, because he

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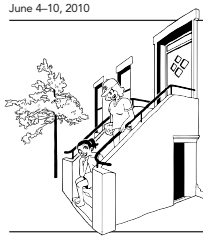
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THE STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

DOWNTOWN

City blitzes Livingston with tickets

Motorists on strip also had their cars towed

By Stephen Witt
Community Newspaper Group

Drivers on Livingston Street were blanketed with tickets and some had their vehicles towed after the city changed parking regulations overnight, yet left parking meters in place with no notices that they were no longer in operation.

Signage stating the new regulations—no parking or standing from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday—was installed on the north side of Livingston between Court and Flatbush avenues, but many motorists ignored the subtly altered signs and fed the existing parking meters anyway.

"This is foul," said motorist Kareem Tyree, who received a ticket and barely missed being towed. "How do you give a ticket [when] they still have meters here? It makes no sense."

City officials say there is a good reason for the change in signage.

"The Department of Transportation studied the area last year for opportunities to reconfigure the street to improve mobility for buses," said an agency spokeswoman. "As part of the project, we will install painted bus lanes with expanded hours."

The old regulations restricted parking or standing on the north side (westbound traffic) from 7-10 a.m. Metered parking is now available on the north side weekday nights and weekends.

Business owners on the strip said the city needs to better inform the public and the signage. "They have made it a 'No Standing' zone just like that," said Peter Sperry, owner of Trophy World on Livingston Street between Boerum Place and Smith Street. "I've already had four customers have their cars towed without the benefit of being told about the new regulations if that is what they are."



Kareem Tyree thought he had parked legally on Livingston Street.

BORO WIDE



Abandoned construction sites on Columbia Street (left) and on Reobling Street between N. 10th and N. 11th streets in Williamsburg (right). They tend to be covered with graffiti.

Bklyn tops city in derelict sites

North Brooklyn especially hard hit

By Gary Bulso
The Brooklyn Paper

The Borough of Churches is fast becoming the Borough of Empty Lots.

Brooklyn is pockmarked by a disproportionate number of abandoned development sites compared with the rest of the city, according to a report released last week by Eastern Consolidated, an investment services firm in Manhattan.

The boom years of 2005-7 went bust when the global financial crisis hit, causing financing for new development to dry up, leaving half-started brick huts and empty lots as a lasting reminder of the blind exuberance that characterized the boom.

As of May 25, there were 279 stalled sites in the borough out of 615 citywide.

North Brooklyn has been hardest hit by the downturn: Of the 264 stalled Brooklyn sites in April, 73 were in Williamsburg and Greenpoint—neighborhoods that were the stars of the boom, thanks to a 2005 rezoning that had facilitated new residential and commercial development.

Report author Barbara Denham, chief economist at Eastern Consolidated, blamed the "herd mentality" on North Brooklyn's struggles. "I just think the assumptions were a little too bold," she said, suggesting that any improvement might be a year away.

One of the most notorious abandoned sites is the massive lot on Bedford Avenue and North 12th Street, which is usually so filled with water that locals call it "Hot Karl Beach."

In honor of project architect Karl Fischer, a few blocks away at Driegs Avenue and N. Ninth Street, a developer bailed on his plans for a \$25-million, six-story rental building and put up a parking lot instead.

"We saw the handwriting on the wall," said Neil Dolgin, president of Kalmou Dolgin Affiliates. "It could be temporary or it could be for the next 10 years."

He blamed the situation on an unbred enthusiasm facilitated by citywide rezonings.

"When you bring on board 10,000 units at the same time, and have an economy that is only going upward, people started to get carried away and thought it would never come to an end," he said.

Dolgin concluded that many of the "holes in the ground" would be resold by banks, repurchased and repurposed to fit leaner times.

"They won't use granite and high-end appliances," he said. "People will just change the way they design." Downtown avoided much of North Brooklyn's trauma because its rezoning passed in 2004, early enough that

a "critical mass of projects [got] financing and got well into the construction process early," according to Joe Chan, the president of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a quasi-governmental group.

He noted that Downtown's lone stalled development, a condo project at Scherhorn and Hoyt Streets, was recently completed.

Fallow sites might do little for the local economy, but they can also pose serious health hazards, according to Councilman Brad Lander (D-Park Slope), who created an interactive Website, www.stalleddevelopment.com, to track the zombies lurking in his district.

"Unfortunately, Brooklyn will continue to grapple with the debris of failed development for some years to come," he said.

But the sites—even the most egregious examples, like a foul-smelling Fourth Avenue lot where oil was reported bubbling from the ground, or a First Place property in Kensington where squatters offered the only signs of life—also represent a not-yet-realized opportunity.

"I would rather have them benefit the community than stand as dangerous eyesores," Lander said.

Lander said that he supports a plan to encourage the construction of affordable housing at derelict locations by giving developers subsidies and other incentives.

There was some good news in the construction reporter: Buildings Department data show that the borough has the most stalled construction sites—108 projects, with 31 completed.

Trouble at empty lot

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

The empty lot at N. Ninth and Reobling streets in Williamsburg should have been a 204-unit condo—instead it is a danger to the community.

Its neighbors are high-end condominiums and luxury row houses such as the 11th Ward Warehouse 11, but the property is a vacant lot with no sidewalk that is strewn with garbage.

The property, owned by Merachim Stark, has amassed 17 violations with the city, which has halted further work on the site and classified the lot as vacant. It is anything but, with several open Dumpsters, rusted and abandoned cars, and even a couple of suitcases.

Most troubling is the sidewalk, or lack thereof.

A makeshift barricade of orange and white striped wood marks an area in the street that is set aside for pedestrians, but has instead become the repository of dead birds and broken glass.

The abandoned site on N. Ninth Street.

With the Giglio Feast coming to the neighborhood in July, tens of thousands of visitors will head toward McCarran Park, so neighbors and local business owners are concerned about an inevitable accident.

"I think that as many stalled development sites as there are in Williamsburg, certain sites should be on a very short list for more acute attention by city agencies," said Merachim Stark.

Not stalled sites put public safety at such an exponentially increase risk [as this one].

When reached for comment, Stark hung up the phone.

FORT GREENE

New look for 'New' theater

Theater for a New Audience builds its dream house

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

A renowned—but itinerant—Shakespeare company will soon have a permanent home across the street from the Brooklyn Academy of Music where the poor players can strut and fret their hour upon the stage.

Atwoing swaths of vines will be the most striking feature of the new home for The Theater for a New Audience, a company that specializes in plays by the Bard of Avon.

That "green curtain," which could be as high as 57 feet, will abut the theater and loom over the new plaza at the entrance to the building, which will be on Ashland Place between Fulton and Lafayette streets.

Tall lightpoles—about the height of a flagpole—will also illuminate the plaza in a spotlight-like pattern, reinforcing the theatrical aesthetic.

"It will be like being in the theater, being in the spotlight, outside the theater," said the architect of the plaza, Ken Smith.

The designs, revealed last Wednesday to Community Board 2, did not radically stray from the original Frank Gehry and Hugh



Last Wednesday night, architects of the proposed Theater for a New Audience building were built next to the Brooklyn Academy of Music showed off their renderings to Community Board 2.

Hardy design, which featured the architects' familiar predilection for glass structures.

But the new design—by Hardy alone, now that Gehry has been axed—features some compelling new elements.

The entrance to the auditorium itself is inset below the second floor. Once inside, ticketholders will walk up a flight of stairs to the lobby, which will be on the second

floor. From the lobby people will enjoy an expansive view of Fulton and Lafayette streets through a three-story glass facade.

Architect Geoff Lynch of H3 Architecture said that the theater, being in the spotlight, outside the theater, "said the architect of the plaza, Ken Smith."

The designs, revealed last Wednesday to Community Board 2, did not radically stray from the original Frank Gehry and Hugh

nal Globe Theater.

The managing director of The Theater for a New Audience, Dorothy Ryan, said that she expected to break ground this year.

Community Board 2's Public Safety Committee greeted the designs with enthusiasm—it was only last year that the project came back from the brink after a ballooning budget and Gehry's withdrawal.

Yet the positive news was undermined by bureaucracy run amok. Though they presented the renderings to CB2, architects refused to make the renderings viewable by anyone who could not attend, or chose not to attend, the meeting—a blatant disregard for the public's right to know.

Lynch refused to give his card to a reporter and did not even offer the spelling of his name, directing all inquiries—spelling?—to the Economic Development Corporation.

Lynch may be pressy, but he's obviously not so shy about revealing intimate details online, such as the fact that his "favorite spot" is "The Pantheon in Rome, when the choir is singing."

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88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Brooklyn has had its first reported iPad theft—jaws dropped—when the group surrounded him. The boy tried to run, but one of the perps hit him in the back of the head and shoved him to the ground.

Two other goons punched and kicked him in the head before the three fled.

Others in the group then chased down the 19-year-old, apparently at random, and stabbed him four times with a "sharp object." That victim told cops that he was simply sitting in the park when the jerks approached him, completely unprovoked.

The group scattered shortly after the stabbing, and cops couldn't find them.

Car prowl
A hoodlum stole a purse containing about \$800 from a parked car on May 26.

The victim told cops that she was inside a store at Nassau Avenue and N. 14th Street, but she left her purse in the car. When she returned at about 4:40 pm, she found her window smashed and an empty space where her purse, credit cards, keys and cash used to be.

Vehicle thefts
Three vehicles went missing this week in Greenpoint.

• Some thug stole a Jeep Cherokee from its parking spot on Dupont Street at Manhattan Avenue on May 24. The victim returned to the spot at about 7:30 am the next day and noticed the car missing.

• A thief took a Saturn sedan from its spot on N. Sixth Street near Wythe Avenue on May 26. The victim noticed that it was missing at about 7:30 am.

• A jerk stole a Ford from its spot on Jackson Street between Kingsland Avenue and Woodpoint Road on May 28. The victim noticed it missing at about 7:15 pm—only an hour after he'd parked it. He told police that he may have left the keys in the ignition.

— **Andy Campbell**

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights—DUMBO-Boerum Hill—Downtown

Park 10 grab
Two thieves snatched a man's iPhone while he walked his dog in the bucolic park at the foot of Main Street in DUMBO on May 23.

The victim told cops he was in the park near Plymouth Street at around 9:15 pm when the pair of thugs approached him from behind, grabbed him, and snatched the popular cellular phone.

Shake down
Three thugs mugged a guy walking on Front Street on May 26.

The victim told cops he was between Bridge and Gold streets at around 12:30 pm when one of the three troublemakers said, "Hey, you! Come here!" The brigands then snatched their quarry's bag and began rummaging through it.

During a scuffle over the victim's iPhone, the two jerks swiped his computer bag, which included an assortment of credit cards and an ID.

Cell swipe
A thief snatched a BlackBerry from a woman's hand while she rode the bus on May 28.

The victim told cops she was texting as she reached Livingston and Bond streets at around 3:10 pm when the thief struck. As the doors opened, the cell-snatcher grabbed the phone and burst onto the street, with two cronies following along.

Blinged out
Three thugs snatched some bling from around a guy's neck on May 27.

The victim told cops he was at Fulton and Lawrence streets at around 7:30 pm when the trio of troublemakers grabbed him and yanked his jewelry chain right off his neck. Within two hours, Officer Surajit Dey busted the brigands.

Roughed up
A thug beat up a guy walking on Front Street on May 26 and stole his bookbag.

The bruised and battered victim told cops that he was between Bridge and Gold streets at around midnight when his attacker approached from behind, threw him to the ground, and began punching and kicking him in the head. The thief then snatched the victim's bookbag, which contained a laptop, portable hard drive, an iPod, and a digital camera.

— **Stephen Brown**

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint-Williamsburg

McCarren mess
A group of ruffians stabbed a 19-year-old and brutally assaulted a 15-year-old kid at McCarren Park on May 28.

The kid told police that he was hanging out at the park, near Roelbling and Bayard streets, at about 4:45 pm when the group surrounded him. The boy tried to run, but one of the perps hit him in the back of the head and shoved him to the ground.

Two other goons punched and kicked him in the head before the three fled.

Others in the group then chased down the 19-year-old, apparently at random, and stabbed him four times with a "sharp object." That victim told cops that he was simply sitting in the park when the jerks approached him, completely unprovoked.

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— **Andy Campbell**

POLICE BLOTTER

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from her wallet and removed his property.

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights

Club carnage
Two men were stabbed near Club F1 on 65th Street after a night of partying on May 30.

The victims, both 21, said that they had just left the nightclub at 4 a.m. and clashed with another club hoper when they reached Eighth Avenue.

The stranger pulled out a knife and attacked, leaving one of the victims with cuts to his head, neck and shoulder. His companion sustained a deep cut to the neck and was taken to Lutheran Medical Center.

BB sting
A 44-year-old woman was shot in the head by a B.B. sniper on Bay Ridge Avenue on May 24.

The woman said she was walking near Fort Hamilton Parkway at 9 pm when a B.B. struck the right side of her head, leaving her with a cut.

She did not know where the B.B. was fired from, she told police.

Unwanted guest
A burglar forced his way into an 88th Street home on May 27, taking a laptop computer and a necklace.

The homeowner said that he left his apartment between 12th and 13th streets on May 27. The owner told cops that he parked his ride between 12th and 13th streets on May 27. The owner told cops that he parked his ride between 12th and 13th streets on May 27. The owner told cops that he parked his ride between 12th and 13th streets on May 27.

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope

Pranked and robbed
Two creeps robbed a woman at Ozzie's cafe on Seventh Avenue after kicking out the chair from underneath her on May 27—but she didn't get far before he was nabbed.

The victim told cops that she was waiting on the Manhattan-bound platform underneath President Street at around 2:25 am when a 22-year-old man approached, knocked her down and took her bag.

He ran away with the contents—a cellphone, an iPod, a laptop and \$20—but was quickly apprehended by Officer Aldo Gil.

Camera seize
A burglar broke into a S. First Street apartment on May 31, getting thousands in fancy stuff.

The resident told cops that he was not in the unit, which is near Bedford Avenue, from 12:15 pm to 4:35 pm, when he returned to find \$3,900 worth of property missing.

Follow him
Two perps choked and mugged a man in the hallway of his Manhattan Avenue apartment building on May 29.

The perps followed their victim into the building, which is near Montrose Avenue, at 10:25 pm, then

went down in the 78th Precinct last week.

• A thief broke into a Sixth Avenue apartment on May 24 and stole two laptops. The tenant told cops that she was last at her place, which is between Sixth and Garfield Place, at around 11 am. When she returned seven hours later she discovered that the two computers, valued at \$2,500, had been stolen.

• A thief busted into a Fourth Street apartment on May 25 and stole an assortment of electronics and jewelry. The tenant told cops that she was not in the home, which is between Sixth and Seventh avenues, from 1 pm until 5 pm, when she discovered missing laptops, digital cameras and bling.

Infernal combustion
Park Slopers, keep an eye on your autos, because at least four cars were stolen last week.

• A thief stole an 11-year-old Ford van from Fourth Avenue between Second and Third streets overnight on May 23. The owner told cops that he had parked the car at 8 pm, but it was gone by morning.

• A Honda Civic vanished from Sixth Avenue. The owner told cops that he had last seen his ride between 11th and 12th streets on May 9, but it, along with a navigation system, an iPod, and an assortment of tools, was gone three days later.

• A Dodge Caravan was stolen from Sterling Place sometime between two weeks before its owner discovered it gone from the block between Sixth and Seventh avenues on May 28.

• A thief stole a 2004 Volvo from Montgomery Place on May 27. The owner told cops that he parked his ride between 12th and 13th streets on May 27. The owner told cops that he parked his ride between 12th and 13th streets on May 27. The owner told cops that he parked his ride between 12th and 13th streets on May 27.

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens

Cobble Hill-Red Hook
A thief knocked down a woman and stole her bag at the Carroll Street F train station on May 25—but she didn't get far before he was nabbed.

The victim told cops that she was waiting on the Manhattan-bound platform underneath President Street at around 2:25 am when a 22-year-old man approached, knocked her down and took her bag.

He ran away with the contents—a cellphone, an iPod, a laptop and \$20—but was quickly apprehended by Officer Aldo Gil.

Silence and dice
A thief with a boxcutter robbed a man on President Street after threatening to slice his belly early on May 24.

The victim told police that he was at the corner of Court Street at around 5 am when a perp approached, put the blade of the boxcutter against his abdomen and said, "Give me some money or I am going to hurt you."

The victim took out \$270, which is near Montrose Avenue, at 10:25 pm, then

— **Gerrit Kuntzman**

At least two break-ins

Some jerk stole a bicycle locked up on Fifth Avenue on May 24.

The owner of the cycle told cops that he had parked his \$1,400 ride between President and Carroll streets at around 7 pm. When he returned from grocery shopping 15 minutes later, it was gone.

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For the second time in as many months, a woman has complained to the state that the Key Food on Atlantic Avenue has relabeled chickens. In this photo, the sell-by date is June 10. But closer inspection revealed that the original date was apparently June 2.

State says fowl is fair!

Ag agency: Key Food chicken relabeling is OK

By Andy Campbell

The Brooklyn Heights Key Food that has been repeatedly accused of changing the "sell-by" date on meat is off the hook this week after the state revealed that the relabeling practice is completely legal.

The Atlantic Avenue market was under state scrutiny last month after customer Marie Viljoen took pictures of a spoiled D'Aragnan chicken, which appeared to have a new "sell-by" date placed over the 11-day-old original. The store has been smacked with some serious food safety violations over the past few months, but the state now says that there's no problem.

"Sell by" dates are nothing but a tool for store managers," said Jessica Ziehm, spokeswoman for the Department of Agriculture and Markets that inspected the Key Food after Viljoen's claims. "It's not illegal to re-

date or re-package, though they're still required to sell safe, wholesome products. We went there and found no problems."

Ziehm said the department followed up on Viljoen's May 13 claim mainly because her chicken had spoiled — but inspectors couldn't find any "critical deficiencies" in the store's practices at that time.

That said, reports obtained by The Brooklyn Paper revealed that this particular Key Food walked a thin line last month after inspectors found back-to-back food deficiencies of the worst grade. In April, inspectors found a significant "buildup of old encrusted meat residues on food contact surfaces," and in May, they found files in the basement kitchen — problems that were resolved in front of inspectors.

If the Key Food had failed a third inspection on May 13, its license could have been revoked, Ziehm said.

Viljoen isn't the only one complain-

ing. On Monday, after the Cobble Hill Blog reprinted our original story, a commenter provided a shocking picture of a package of meat labeled "octopus" that clearly contained some octopus, but mostly imitation crab.

Still, the store is exonerated in the eyes of the state, at least until the next inspection. A manager who asked not to be named denied having ever tampered with the labels — though he extended an apology to Viljoen.

"We want our customers coming back," the employee said. "We want to do a service to this community."

He even offered Viljoen a free chicken, but she won't accept, saying that the store's previous complaints and inspection failures are telling.

"I read labels because I want to know what I'm eating — I think this is a systematic problem," Viljoen said. "[The workers] seem to do whatever they can get away with. I won't shop there anymore, based on principle."

Principal withdraws discrimination suit

Almontaser doesn't want to go through with fight

By Helen Klein

In a surprising reversal, the founder of a public school with a controversial Arabic curriculum announced that she will not pursue a lawsuit against the city for wrongful termination — despite a recent report from a federal agency that she was deserving of financial reparations and reinstatement.

The former principal of the Khalil Gibran International Academy, Debbie Almontaser, said that the prospect of a protracted court case that would have thrust her back into the spotlight was too much to bear.

"I have decided that it is time for me to move on with my professional and personal life," said Almontaser. "Additional litigation of the discrimination claim would mean re-living the unfortunate and painful events of August, 2007, when news stories daily distorted my words and attacked my work, my integrity, and my reputation."

Almontaser's decision to withdraw the suit comes only two months after the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled that the Department of Education "succumbed to the very bias that creation of the school was intended to dispel" when it



The opening of the Khalil Gibran International Academy attracted considerable attention in 2007 — but founder Debbie Almontaser (left) was long gone by then.



forced the Muslim educator to quit her job as principal of Khalil Gibran.

City officials reiterated their stance that Almontaser's firing was legal.

"As we've stated previously, the [federal] finding was without any basis whatsoever, and the [Department of Education] in no way discriminated against Ms. Almontaser," said Michael Best, a lawyer for the city.

The whirlwind of controversy surrounding Almontaser began back in February, 2007, when the educator unveiled an innovative English and Arabic curriculum that would, she said, foster greater understanding between cultures that are often perceived as be-

ing at odds.

Barright-wing bloggers got wind of the new school, and labels like "madrasah" and "jihad school" began circulating in the media.

During the furor, Almontaser appeared in a New York Post article about a line of T-shirt designs that read, "Intifada NYC." Almontaser failed to remove the shirts in the article, and resigned in the subsequent firestorm.

The school opened without her.

In the wake of the federal ruling in March that vindicated Almontaser, Khalil Gibran's then-principal, Holly Anne Kischert, abruptly resigned and Besbir Abdelatif took over, making him the

first Muslim-American to run the school in its brief history — a coincidence that did not elude the embattled educator.

"While it is shameful that it took as finding of discrimination by an independent federal agency to force the city's hand, I hope that this appointment will bring the stability and leadership to the school that it so badly needs," Almontaser said.

Almontaser currently works as a special education coordinator at a high school in Brooklyn, and is still awaiting a decision by the US Court of Appeals on another lawsuit charging that her First Amendment rights were violated by her firing.

KENT...

Continued from page 1

"I have five kids and I'm the breadwinner of the family. I needed to improve my financial status."

After Guzman spoke with several co-workers and did his own research about how to organize them to ask for better wages and health benefits, a representative from the building's management company, Roseland Properties, questioned him about his activities — then delivered the news.

"I asked them why I was being fired and they said because I was rallying for the union," said Guzman.

Martinez also received notice from his employer, Lifestyles Services, that he had been laid off, but he says he hasn't even been told why he has been fired or received his checks from previous work.

"I haven't told my son. I don't know what to do," said Martinez. "I may need to seek some kind of help. Right now I'm going crazy with this."

Labor disputes have been rare in Williamsburg over the past five years during the real estate boom. Many of the new developments along the waterfront, including The Edge on N. Fifth Street, use union laborers, as stipulated by the city during its 2005 waterfront rezoning. But 184 Kent is a renovated property, which was exempt from the rezoning agreement.

Still, the building management company, Roseland Properties, likely did not have the legal resources to terminate the workers' contracts. Federal law prohibits employers from discharging or disciplining anyone who seeks to be represented by a union.

"If the employees are trying to organize and they are dismissed for that rea-

son, that's an unfair labor practice," said Al Byer, the Brooklyn regional director of the National Labor Relations Board. "The remedy is to offer their jobs back, with some back pay."

That's what Guzman and Martinez want — as long as they are unionized. The average salary for a unionized concierge is between \$19 and \$22 an hour, while a handyman would earn almost \$20 an hour, numbers based on last month's apartment building workers settlement.

The men have contacted the SEIU-32BJ, a service workers union, to handle their labor case. So far, 14 workers have signed cards saying they want to join a union.

"We hope to get the men working again and get their jobs back," said Kwame Patterson, a spokesman for SEIU, which has already filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board against Roseland Properties, Lifestyles Services, and the building's developer, JMH Development, for "interrogation, threats and wrongful termination."

For now, the fired workers handed out flyers outside their former employer's building last week informing tenants about the firings. On Wednesday afternoon, as tenants were returning from work, some took the flyers, cheering "right on." Others reacted with surprise, promising to call the building's developer with complaints.

"We've been getting a good response," said Martinez. "People are calling and e-mailing the management."

Calls to Roseland Properties were not returned and a spokesman for JMH Development declined to comment.



Public Advocate Bill DeBlasio talks to Zephia Phillips.

DEBLASIO

Continued from page 1 (ridicule, alas).

But DeBlasio was not deterred.

"We want to make ourselves available to help people deal with city agencies," he said.

In fact, the public advocate seemed relieved to hear the select private concerns that reflected greater issues. One woman, who refused to give her name, told DeBlasio that charter schools should accept students regardless of their test scores and grades. She said she was upset her daughter could not get into one and remains in public school, where some teach-

ers "don't care if students learn or not."

And Sabrett vendor Abdul Karim called for the public advocate's attention to a pressing matter: the theft of food and drinks from his cart by high school students after dismissal time last week. Karim ranted that hundreds of kids, who regularly swarm the stand's corner each weekday afternoon, left "not one bit of food" — and police haven't been helpful. DeBlasio listened intently, but after Karim tried to refer the advocate to another victim down the street that Dr. DeBlasio told his patient that, alas, his time was up.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 4-10, 2010

Cool it down

Mix up relief from the heat — in your own kitchen

Memorial Day is behind us, so it's officially summer in our book. But summer gets hot, so we've prepared a package of stories around the universal

concept of staying cool when everyone around you is melting. So in this special section, you'll find tips on making your own ice cream, shaking a perfect summer

cocktail and even advice on making your own beer (first piece of advice? Grab a beer before reading the advice on how to make your own beer). Enjoy!

Angels of ice cream

By Kristen V. Brown
for The Brooklyn Paper

Sometimes you leave it to the experts. Sometimes — particularly when ridiculously amazing ice cream from Phinizy and Phebe is involved — you don't.

With flavors like goat cheese caramel and fluffnut — studied with Ritz crackers, Marshmallow Fluff, peanut butter, caramel and chocolate — do-it-yourself ice cream masters Jess Eddy and Crista Freeman, aka Phinizy and Phebe, have managed to introduce something shiny and new to an ice cream scene already packed with inventive flavors from folks like Blue Marble and Van Leeuwen.

Better yet, they're doing it all from the confines of their teeny Williamsburg kitchen. DIY, indeed!

The confections aren't in stores yet, but watch out, these ladies are on fire. After debating earlier this month at the Brooklyn Lyceum, the duo has already found itself bombarded with e-mails, clamoring for more.

Web gurus by day, the pair started off innocently enough, taking up ice cream making as a fun indoor hobby over the winter. Soon though, they were hooked.



Frosty: Crista Freeman (left) and Jess Eddy are making gourmet ice cream out of their Montrose Avenue apartment.

"We've been making ice cream together since about February — just for fun," said Freeman. "Then it became this crazy obsession. We were prototyping two flavors a weekend. One time, we even made four."

For many of the flavors, the two take inspiration from their childhoods growing up in Maine (Eddy) and the south (Freeman) — like for instance the Fluffnut, which was

inspired by fluffernutter sandwiches their moms used to make them as kids.

This spring, they decided to take their obsession mainstream, bringing it to fairs, like one at the Brooklyn Lyceum.

For now, the duo is working in home kitchen-sized four quart "nano batches," but an expansion is on the horizon. Eventually, they'll sell it in stores, and per-

haps offer ice cream delivery or open up a parlor.

In the meantime, catch them at the Hester Street fair in Manhattan June 12 and 13, and the Homemade Brooklyn pop-up shop on June 25.

Watch out Van Leeuwen — looks like someone's about to give you a run for your artisanal ice cream money.

Check out the recipe on page 9

Brooklyn's new drink

Manhattan has its own cocktail. So does Singapore, Russia and even freakin' Long Island. And now, thanks to us, our worthy borough finally has a drink to call its own.

Meet "The Brooklyn Summer," a minty-lemony-bourbon classic crafted exclusively for our readers by Luke Wheeler, the general manager of DUMBO hotspot rebar.

The simple syrup and mint leaves give it a bright, summery flavor," said Wheeler, who used bourbon in a nod to the classic

The Brooklyn Summer

Created by Luke Wheeler

INGREDIENTS
4 mint leaves
Simple syrup
1 lemon
2 ounce Maker's Mark bourbon
Crushed ice

DIRECTIONS

Cut the lemon in half, and cut one half into three slices. Muddle mint and lemon slices with simple syrup. Squeeze juice from remaining lemon half. Pour in Maker's Mark.

Top with crushed ice. Garnish with a copy of your favorite Community Newspaper Group print edition.

summer cocktail, the mint julep. "And everyone likes lemonade."

rebar (147 Front St. near Jay Street in DUMBO), (718) 797-2222. Look out in mid-June for the bar's new summer cocktail menu. — Meredith Deliso

Make your own beer!

By Meredith Deliso
The Brooklyn Paper

So you're thinking about brewing beer at home?

Lucky for you, many before you have ventured into homebrewing, pioneering the way for beer enthusiasts to start making their own brew in bathtubs. "Anybody who homebrews likes to craft things from home," said Kevin Avanzato, general manager of Union Hall, which is hosting a homebrewing competition on June 15. "To be able to make your own beer is magical."

Here's a look at stores where you can buy tools and ingredients (where would one buy hops, anyway?) as well as find friendly advice and classes.

Try it

In January, Benjamin Stutz and Danielle Cefaro opened Brooklyn Homebrew



Beer guru: Brooklyn Homebrew owner Benjamin Stutz shares with us how you make beer at home.

in Gowanus, a space devoted to DIY brewing. Begin your adventure in homebrewing with a \$75 introductory kit, which includes a fermenting bucket, bottling bucket, air

See BEER on page 9

EVENT

Hello honey

Happy bee-day!
On June 12, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden celebrates its 100th birthday the sweetest way it knows possible.

From bee-made and -inspired products to honey taste tests from local beekeepers, it's an apirary extravaganza.

Fill up on honey products made by Liddabit Sweets and Sugarbush and the sweet stuff itself made by local rooftop beekeepers, who got a boost after the city made the practice legal in the city this past March.

Throughout the day, sample sounds from local bands including soul revival act the Sweet Divines, performing with the queen bee herself, Maxine Brown; Brooklyn's own kings of a cappella, The Persuasions; the gypsy jazz of Stephane Wrembel and his Django Experiment; as well as a special performance by Helen Martin's Duo of — what else — "Flight of the Bumblebee."

There's a lot to be excited about.

"Centennial Bee-Day Party" at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave., at Crown Street in Crown Heights), June 12, 11 am-6 pm. Free. For info, visit www.bbg.org.

— Meredith Deliso

CINEMA

Global film

It's the Sundance that spans the seas. More than 100 cutting edge films lensed from as far away as Uruguay and as close as Union Street will premiere from June 4 to June 13 as the Brooklyn International Film Festival celebrates its 13th year.

There'll be hearsequels, documentaries, eye-popping animation and short films of every stripe — and there's even a flick about bloggers.

Hey, what would a Brooklyn-based film festival be without "Colin Harts Kay" a delightfully wacky live action/animation comedy set in Park Slope that exposes the true danger about blogging — it's hell on relationships.

Festival screening director Nathan Kensing said that more than 2,400 submissions from throughout the U.S. and more than 90 other countries were sent in for consideration.

"It was an extremely tight competition, but we picked the ones that stood out, the ones that expressed the most current, exciting and newest ideas," he said.

Brooklyn International Film Festival at the Brooklyn Heights Cinema (70 Henry St. between Canberry and Orange streets in Brooklyn Heights), (718) 599-7070 and indieScreen (285 Kent Ave. between S. First and S. Second streets in Williamsburg), (718) 388-4306. For info, visit www.brooklynfilmfestival.org. — Thomas Tracy

COMEDY

Best ever

Get ready for your best night ever.

On June 13, Paul F. Tompkins, best known as the irreverent, gap-toothed host of "Best Week Ever," as well as a cast member on "Mr. Show," comes to the Bell House for a night of comedy.

Tompkins has local fans to thank for the show.

As part of an ongoing bit about social media, Tompkins has vowed to perform wherever 300 online admirers demand it.

It's a modest number for the dapper comedian, who's gained fans far his three-piece suits, as well as his kingly storyteller's death to the silly (cake vs. pie).

"There has been a debate raging in our society for many, many years," says Tompkins in the latter bit. "People are on one side or the other. There doesn't seem to be any middle ground."

"Some people like cake more than pie, some people like pie more than cake," he continues, building momentum. "We've never been able to agree which one is best — until this historic night!"

Paul F. Tompkins at the Bell House (149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus), (718) 443-6500. June 13 at 8 pm. Tickets \$20. For info, visit www.thebellhouse.com. — Meredith Deliso

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Fri 6/11 South Africa vs. Mexico (10am)
Uruguay vs. France (2:30pm)
South Korea vs. Greece (7:30am)
Argentina vs. Nigeria (10am)
England vs. USA (2:30pm)
Sun 6/13 Algeria vs. Slovenia (7:30am)
Serbia vs. Ghana (10am)
Mon 6/14 Germany vs. Australia (2:30pm)
Holland vs. Denmark (7:30am)
Japan vs. Cameroon (10am)
Italy vs. Paraguay (2:30pm)
Tue 6/15 New Zealand vs. Slovakia (7:30am)
Ivory Coast vs. Portugal (10am)
Brazil vs. North Korea (2:30pm)
Honduras vs. Chile (7:30am)
Wed 6/16 Spain vs. Switzerland (10am)
South Africa vs. Uruguay (2:30pm)
Thu 6/17 Argentina vs. South Korea (7:30am)
Greece vs. Nigeria (10am)
France vs. Mexico (2:30pm)
Germany vs. Serbia (7:30am)
Slovenia vs. USA (10am)
Fri 6/18 England vs. Algeria (2:30pm)

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Seal of the City of New York

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Southern comfort

Seersucker in Carroll Gardens does Dixie proud

By Kristen V. Brown
for The Brooklyn Paper

The concept at Seersucker is much like the Carroll Gardens restaurant's name—a polished southern classic.

Seersucker is a dressed-up homage to Chef Robert Newton's Arkansas childhood, a collaboration between Newton, a Le Cirque veteran and private chef, and his girlfriend, Kerry Diamond.

"When Rob came to New York, he was so surprised to find that everyone thinks Southern food is something that's deep fried and covered in gravy," said Diamond. "He wanted to show people it doesn't have to be like that."

Yes, you'll find items like the requisite shrimp and grits (\$18), but here it's accented with tomatoes and mushrooms from the Carroll Gardens farmers' market rather than smothered in cheddar.



'Sucker's punch: Chef Robert Newton has opened Seersucker, a new take on Southern cuisine, on Smith Street.

Newton has a strong sensibility of fresh and local, using much of his in his cookery.

A hearty country casserole was a hit at the restaurant's "Brick and family night" last week—served

DINING

Seersucker 129 Smith St. between Carroll and President streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 262-0444. Closed Mondays.

alongside a perfectly tender duck leg and topped with cornbread crumbs. The roasted Vidalia onion (\$17), with shallots and wheatberries, was juicy, sweet and strangely decadent; a surprisingly thoughtful vegetarian option for a Southern joint.

The beer and wine list is refreshingly all-American, and coffee, of course, comes from Counter Culture Coffee in Durham, North Carolina. We can't wait for those big breakfasts, but for now, Seersucker serves dinner only.

"It's still Southern classics," said Diamond, "but with a much lighter hand."

The Best Thing We Ate This Week

The \$11 hot dog

After conquering mile-long beer lists at Spuyten Duyvil and barbeque at Fette Sau, Joe Carroll decided that the next thing the intersection of Havenmeyer and Metropolitan needed was organ meat, and lots of it—from calves' heart jerky to beer-battered hush.

Owing to inevitable liquor license snafus, finally, for now St. Anselm, Carroll's newest venture, is serving only house-made sodas and a limited menu, consisting primarily of dogs. These hot dogs, though, do not by any means underwhelm.

On a menu that oddly takes many of its cues from New Jersey culinary tradition, the duo undoubtedly the Newark dog (\$11), easily the

granddaddy of every other hot dog that has ever graced the earth. Two franks are deep fried, stuffed in a giant-sized bun of "pizza bread" and topped with golden, crispy fries and an delicious, lightly breaded pepper and onions, fried in beef tallow. The toppings improve—and make it difficult to eat—once you finally bite into that moist, succulent hot dog.

At St. Anselm, the hot dogs are specially made by Karl Elmer—there's a little smoky, a little spicy and fresher than you could ever imagine a hot dog to taste.

St. Anselm 355 Metropolitan Ave. at Havenmeyer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-5054.

—Kristen V. Brown

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

Too young to have a college kid?

When Smartmom and Hepcat found out they were pregnant in July 1990, they were terrified.

"We can barely take care of ourselves," Smartmom remembers saying. "How are we going to take care of a little baby?"

Smartmom and Hepcat were sitting on the toilet couch in the East Village co-op they shared. She started to cry. Hepcat looked very pale. Very.



By Louise Crawford

weren't sure they were up for the task—they weren't sure they were ready to let go of their career married life. Truthfully, it didn't take

long to adjust. The pregnancy took over their lives and so did Smartmom's morning sickness, which would hit her every night that first trimester.

She'd be starting and they'd go to Forest on Gansevoort Street and share an order of Steak Frites and Evelyn's Got Cheese Salad.

Food never tasted so good. The restaurant was always packed with arty Lower Manhattan types and young couples. Music blaring, conversations swirling, it was a fun place to be pregnant at midnight just months before becoming parents.

The day after Teen Spirit was born, Smartmom had that terrified feeling again. "What do we do now?" she remembers saying to Hepcat as they sat alone in the hospital room. All their family members and friends had left after a day of celebrating, of cooing and abiding, of gifts and joy.

There are pictures of them from that night. Smartmom in a nightgown, her belly still swollen from pregnancy. Hepcat looking so boyish and handsome.

They really were young and the rest of their lives had just begun. "He snored," Hepcat said

starting lovingly at Baby Teen. "He's like a little piglet in a plastic bassinet."

"And loudly," he added. Smartmom listened. He was right. Their baby was snoring with every inch of his being. It was unbearably cute and poignant and real.

And that's just Smartmom's fear of pregnancy aloud, so did Smartmom fear of motherhood as the daily details of life with Baby Teen Spirit took over.

Within days, it was like they'd been parents forever. Actually, it took Hepcat less time to adjust.

"I was raised on a farm," he used to say, "I know all about baby cows. What's so different about humans?"

Indeed, Smartmom's experience with dairy cows also helped them deal with the challenges of lactation. He was great partner those first months of Teen Spirit's life, and Smartmom appreciated his sense of adventure and fearlessness when it came to Baby Teen Spirit. For instance, he insisted on bathing Teen Spirit not in one of those first months of Teen Spirit's life, and Smartmom appreciated his sense of adventure and fearlessness when it came to Baby Teen Spirit.

For instance, he insisted on bathing Teen Spirit not in one of those first months of Teen Spirit's life, and Smartmom appreciated his sense of adventure and fearlessness when it came to Baby Teen Spirit.

Smartmom stops typing long enough to wonder why she is focusing on that period of their lives all these years ago. Before Brooklyn. Before the Oh So Feisty One. Before

Teen Spirit was so little he could fit on Hepcat's hand. Smartmom stops typing long enough to wonder why she is focusing on that period of their lives all these years ago. Before Brooklyn. Before the Oh So Feisty One. Before

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FAMILY CALENDAR

FRI, JUNE 4

10 am-5 pm: Native American celebration. The Redhawk Arts Council hosts "Gateway to Nations" featuring authentic cuisine, demonstrations and music. \$12. \$7 seniors and under free. Gateway National Recreation Area at Floyd Bennett Field 50 Aviation Rd. near Flatbush Avenue in Marine Park, (718) 686-9277, www.redhawkanarts.org.

11:30 am: Storytime with Emily, Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoxiepot.com).

4:45 pm: Movie, "Tinkerbell." Peter Pan's sidekick, Tinkerbell, is in charge of the day's activities. Free. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoxiepot.com).

SAT, JUNE 5

1-3 pm: Nature crafts. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400, www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

10 am-4 pm: Street fair. Free. Access from the Brooklyn Children's Museum 1151 Avenue of the Americas between Brooklyn and Kingsland streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 596-9131, www.cobblehillmuseum.com.

MON, JUNE 7

4 pm: "ET: The Extra Terrestrial." \$6.50. Cobble Hill Cinema 1265 Court St. between Butler and Kingsland streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 596-9131, www.cobblehillmuseum.com.

TUES, JUNE 8

11 am-7 pm: Native American celebration. See Friday, June 4.

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11 am-7 pm: Native American celebration. See Friday, June 4.

FENCE COMPETITIVELY OR JUST FOR FUN!

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THE BROOKLYN PAPER'S 2010 CAMP GUIDE

LIU Children's Academy Summer Camp
Long Island University
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Avenue C, Fort Greene,
(718) 488-1364, childrensacademy@liu.edu
Director: Sharon Abbate
Ages: 3-12 years
July 6 • Aug 20 (one week)
Full day: 9 am-5 pm
Extended hours: 8:30 am-6 pm

Park Slope Day Camp
In Windsor Terrace, Park
Ridge, Kensington, Bay
Ridge, Carroll Gardens,
(718) 788-7732, parkslope.org
Director: Ronny Schindler
Ages: entering pre-K-6th grade
June 29 to Sept 3
Full day: 8 am-6 pm, early dismissal optional for young kids. Extended hours to 6:30 pm

Transportation: Free morning shuttle from most of Brownstone Brooklyn and Bay Ridge
Activities: Outdoor camp with lots of physical and outdoor activity. Daily trips, including swimming (lake, pool and beach), hikes, museums, zoos, dining, exploring, Sesame Place. Carefully selected adult staff.

Beth Elohim Summer Day Camps
274 Garfield Place, Park Slope, congregation-beth-elohim.org, (718) 768-3814, ext. 210
Preschool Division
Director: Jaci Israel and Pam Karlin
June 21 to Jul 30
Ages: 2 to 5 years
Full day: 9 am-5 pm
Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm

Activities: Swimming (instructional and recreational), arts and crafts, music, nature, sports, gymnastics, circus arts, trip 2 days per week
Elementary Division
Director: Bobbie Finkelshtein
June 29 to Aug 13
Ages: entering K-4
Full day: 9 am-5 pm
Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm

Activities: Swimming, arts and crafts, music, nature, sports, gymnastics, circus arts, trips 2 days per week

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Activities: Swimming, arts and crafts, music, nature, sports, gymnastics, circus arts, trips 2 days per week

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A Spike Lee drink

Filmmaker's collaborates on Brooklyn vodka, kick-offs Brooklyn Blogfest

By Meredith Deliso
The Brooklyn Paper

He doesn't live in Brooklyn anymore, and he doesn't blog, but Spike Lee will be the main draw at this year's Brooklyn Blogfest.

And he'll be shilling vodka, no less.

On June 8, the iconic filmmaker will make an appearance at the annual blog gathering, held in Park Slope at the Brooklyn Lyceum.

The event will serve in part as a coming out for Lee's latest joint — a Brooklyn-themed vodka made by Absolut — two days before the official launch party for the liquor at power-house Arena in DUMBO.

Absolut approached event organizer Louise Crawford, the founder of the seminal Web site Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn, about sponsoring the Blogfest, and she was immediately on board.

"I was impressed that they had done their research and found me," said Crawford, who added that Lee's a good fit with the Blogfest because of his "creative energy."

"One of the themes of the Blogfest is, 'What is this atmosphere, this creativity, that seems to be rampant in Brooklyn right now?'" Crawford said, "and, in addition to being the fairy godmother of borough bloggers, is also a columnist for The Brooklyn Paper."

To fully explore that theme of creativity, mixologists will be concocting cocktails using the new limited-edition Brooklyn vodka — a ginger and apple blend — for bloggers, who tend to be thirstier than the general public.

Lee, who designed the bottle's art, will also speak about the project and why he got involved.

"Brooklyn is all about the stoop, so we wanted that to be the focal point," said Lee, who was born in Atlanta but grew up in Fort Greene. "It's all about the 7th floor summer, the added Crawford, who, in addition to being the fairy godmother of borough bloggers, is also a columnist for The Brooklyn Paper."

(Before you head Lee's advice and break out the flavors at your next stoop hang, just remember — it's not legal to drink in public, even in the seeming privacy of your own stoop. Also, check out our panel review of



Spike Lee (pictured above with Clive Owen on the set of "Inside Man") debuts his latest project, a borough-inspired vodka, at the Brooklyn Blogfest on June 8.

Lee's concoction on this video online at www.BrooklynPaper.com.)

To help him bring it back to the stoop, Lee got design help from hip-hop artist Lemon Anderson, a Brooklyn native and frequent collaborator of the filmmaker's, who recently produced his off-Broadway show. At the Blogfest, Anderson will join Lee and perform new spoken word poetry.

Thanks to the partnership with Absolut, the first major one for the annual event, the Blogfest will be free for the first time in its five-year history. It's also given Crawford the opportunity to evaluate her event, which draws hundreds of bloggers from all across Brooklyn.

"When you get bigger and have a sponsor and celebrities coming, it really forces you to crystallize in your mind what the essence of the event," said Crawford. "You have to work that much harder to preserve the essence of this tribal gathering of people who believe in this democratic free form of expression that's very creative and limitless."

For their part, bloggers don't seem to mind the new partner.

"There's such a cacophony of voices that I doubt it will change the character of the event much beyond adding 'The Big Picture,' a video tribute to Brooklyn's photo bloggers, a panel discussion by WNYC's Andrea Bernstein, and 'Blog Out Loud,' where authors will perform a 10-minute piece inspired by blog writing.

Other components of the Blogfest include "The Big Picture," a video tribute to Brooklyn's photo bloggers, a panel discussion by WNYC's Andrea Bernstein, and "Blog Out Loud," where authors will perform a 10-minute piece inspired by blog writing.

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After years of legal fighting, John Quadrozzi has finally torn down the metal fence in Red Hook Park that blocked views of the water. But for how long?

He tore down that wall

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

This summer, Red Hook Park will finally have a bench with a view, as a somewhat breathtaking waterfront vista has been restored to a section of Red Hook Park.

For the last four years, park-goers were left staring at an 18-foot-tall, 200-foot-long corrugated metal wall at Hallett and Clinton streets, a structure that separated the Gowanus Underpass from the park — and rudely obstructed views of Henry Street Basin, a quaint harbor along the Hudson Bay.

Things looked promising in 2008, when the Brooklyn Supreme Court ruled that business owner John Quadrozzi illegally built the structure and had 90 days to tear down the wall.

Quadrozzi appealed the case, extending the drama two more years.

This winter, he ran out of legal wiggle room, and the wall finally came tumbling down.

With warmer weather finally here, residents said they are prepared to take advantage to the change of scenery.

"The wall prevented families from enjoying the alternative recreation that this waterfront vista offers," said Ludger Balan, a Red Hook resident and founder of the Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy, an environmental advocacy group.

Balan said he is pleased to see most of the wall is down, but complained that support poles remain moored in the ground, perhaps a sign that the structure may one day rise again.

While the view has certainly improved for park-users, Quadrozzi says his own vista is now becoming X-rated.

He claimed that sneaking down a controversial wall on his property last winter, trespassers have had a field day — including a howdy dog caught snapping made photos.

"The purpose of the fence was to keep out vandals, the drug trade, and other negative uses," he said, adding that he was just following city zoning regulations when he

erected the wall, which he said protects the public from any noxious uses transpiring on his property.

Deputy Inspector Kenneth Corey, the commanding officer of the 76th Precinct, said that cops have not witnessed anyone trespassing or engaged in any unsavory activity.

The city Law Department was just pleased that the long national nightmare is over on the Red Hook waterfront.

"We are pleased to hear that Brooklynites appreciate having the view of the waterfront once again — our attorneys work hard to improve New Yorkers' quality of life," said agency spokeswoman Connie Pokratz.

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PPW bike lane is underway

By Stephen Brown

Construction is underway on the Prospect Park West bike lane — a controversial measure that city officials say will calm traffic, but that has done little to calm Park Slope drivers angry at the possibility of more congestion and less parking.

The new lane markings that were painted on Tuesday show the beginnings of a

two-way bike lane that will stretch from Grand Army Plaza to Bartel Prichard Square, along a 1.5-mile stretch of the park's edge, but that has done little to calm Park Slope drivers angry at the possibility of more congestion and less parking.

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CONSTRUCTION

New animal attraction

Now someone is trying to poach turtles in Prospect Park!

By Stephen Brown

The Brooklyn Paper

"Turtles better hide in their shells — it appears someone is poaching the precious creatures from the lake in Prospect Park!"

Two regular parkgoers, Anne-Katrin Tizze and Ed Bahlman, discovered the shocking trap in the water last Tuesday while cleaning the area around the nest of one

of their beloved swans.

The trap, which is slightly bigger than a shoebox, had a long line tethered to it, which was secured under a fallen tree. Tizze snatched the line with a stick, after noticing that Sedna, a mother swan, was nibbling at some odd debris — turned out to be a shirt — near the bank of the lake.

"It was like she wanted

us to clean up," said Bahlman, explaining how they stumbled upon the shocking find.

Bahlman and Tizze even said they found another trap the day before.

But park officials were hesitant to declare the traps a clear sign of poaching.

"I can't say [if that is] a turtle trap or what kind of trap it is or what animals someone

was trying to trap with it,"

said Eugene Patron, a spokesman for the Prospect Park Alliance, who was shown a photograph of the apparatus. But regardless of what it was, trapping or capturing of wildlife is absolutely prohibited.

It is hard to imagine what other purpose the trap could have served. The basket is not meant to capture fish, and the area where it was found is preferred among turtles, which bask on the many fallen trees on the edge of the lake.

"It's clearly not a fish

trap, because no fish could get caught in it," said Max Gaspary, a lifelong fisherman familiar with Prospect Park.

"A turtle was not hooked with the green bait, so it wouldn't be able to get out of there quickly — it's a crude trap, but I can't imagine what else [someone] would be going after with that thing."

Gaspary added that it's not uncommon for people to eat the meat of turtles and use the shells as decorations.

The latest discovery only reinforced Bahlman and Tizze's concerns about the safety of the lake for the



Parkgoers Anne-Katrin Tizze and Ed Bahlman continue to make unsettling discoveries at the lake in Prospect Park. Last Tuesday, they found what appeared to be a turtle trap.

diverse wildlife that call it home.

Last week, a cygnet met its demise after it became entangled in fishing line.

Sedna was wrapped and up

and wounded by a stray hook and line as well.

Subsequent reports revealed that the swans' violent nature was rearing its

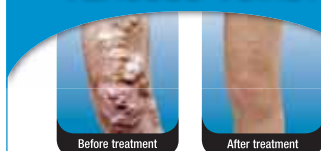
cygnet met its demise after running afoul of Jaws — a swan notorious for his short fuse.

And it was only in December that a careless fisherman was considered the likely culprit for the plight of "Beaky," the deformed goose missing the top half of its beak.

The dog advocacy group, FIDO, has donated four fishing line recycling bins that are being installed around the lake — a measure that should help prevent wildlife entanglements.

The discovery of the turtle trap is just the latest bizarre happening in Prospect Park so far this year — a year that has seen wounded ducks, the dumping of animal parts, the spilling of blood, and the death of a loved swan, John Boy, in an alleged act of swan-on-swan violence.

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PARK...

Continued from page 1

was in the park with his Newfoundland retriever pooch. "All this charcoal — it's killing the trees!"

But Prospect Park Alliance president Tupper Thomas sought to put the weekend's revelry in perspective, and said that she had been in the area on Memorial Day doing out trash-bags and spreading the word about proper charcoal disposal.

"We've had much worse over the years," said Thomas, who will be retiring at the end of the year. "In the early

years, we had random barbecuing with no enforcement and no designated areas. This was a great [improvement]."

Thomas also touted the Alliance's public awareness campaign about proper charcoal disposal.

But she did concede that the park did not have many enforcement agents at its disposal on Memorial Day.

"On Memorial Day enforcement is tough —

beaches are open — so the amount of actual tickets being given is really small," Thomas said.

CONEY...

Continued from page 1

simulates the feel of a beach shack that's been caught in a hurricane.

• **Brooklyn Flyer** — This thrill ride allows visitors to swing across the sky, 100 feet above Luna Park.

• **Circus Train** — This children's ride allows kids to hop aboard for a ride around the tracks.

• **Coney Island Sound** — This family-friendly ride bounces up, down, and around.

• **Coney Tower** — This family-adventurous bounces

visitors up-and-down from heights of up to 40 feet.

• **Eclipse** — This pendulum swing takes riders up to 50 feet in the air with nothing below their feet.

• **Electro Spin** — This thrill ride consists of a giant, spinning disk that takes riders up and down a "half-pipe" while rotating at high speed.

• **Happy Swing** — This children's ride allows visitors to recall their favorite childhood swing sets, while treating young riders to the joys of swinging.

• **Kite Glider** — Riders of

this ride are placed in a horizontal position, and after lifting off the ground, the ride begins an exciting double-oscillating wave-like motion.

• **Lunar Express** — This family-friendly coaster takes riders in an oversized tea cup to spin at the top of the field.

• **Luna's Trapezium** — This flying carousel allows riders to glide at ease while viewing historic images of Coney Island.

• **Mermaid Parade** — This kid-size water flume allows young riders to join in on the famous Mermaid Parade.

• **Speed Boat** — This family ride feels like visitors are jumping the waves on a

brand new speed boat.

• **Surf's Up** — This one-of-a-kind stand-up ride lets riders "hang ten" and "catch a wave."

• **Tea Party** — This family-favorite positions riders in an oversized tea cup to spin at their own speed.

Just how amazing Luna Park will be remains in doubt, of course. The amusement area, operated by Central Amusement International, an offshoot of the Zamperla ride manufacturing firm that also operates the Victorian rides at the famous Mermaid Parade.

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brand new speed boat. • **Surf's Up** — This one-of-a-kind stand-up ride lets riders "hang ten" and "catch a wave."

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• **Speed Boat** — This family ride feels like visitors are jumping the waves on a

short term by giving thrill-seekers a place to go this summer, and more important, serve as a placeholder for the permanent 12-acre amusement park that, city officials promise, will one day occupy a swath of city-owned land between Keyspan Park and the landmark Cyclone roller coaster.

The completion of that plan — which will be complemented by hotels, retail and other amusement-related attractions built by the area's other main landowner, Joe Sitt — is at least a decade off.

Luna Park (1000 Surf Ave. at W. 10th Street in Coney Island, (718) 373-5862)

GOP

Continued from page 1

from over a year of working door-to-door, conversation-to-conversation."

Perhaps, but Staten Island Republicans had few options. Grimm interviewed with party leaders but declined to appear at the county nominating convention on Thursday night, calling it "a sham convention that already has its marching orders" for a pre-determined outcome.

He vowed instead to take his candidacy "directly to the Republican voters in a Republican primary."

Jonathan Judge, the president of the Brooklyn Young Republican Club, believes that the Staten Island GOP move may "split the right-of-center" vote, given that the Staten Island Conservative Party has backed McMahon while its counterpart in Brooklyn has endorsed Grimm.

"It could give McMahon a pass to get re-elected in a year when he's certainly most vulnerable to getting knocked out," Judge said. "That's disconcerting."

Typically, he said, the Republican and Conservative parties try to unite around one candidate.

That would have been a lot easier had Fossella accepted the Staten Island Republican bid to draft him to run for his old seat, which he abandoned after a drunk-driving arrest in 2008 led to revelations that this family values

politico valued families so much that he had two of them — one in Staten Island and another secret mistress and lovechild in Virginia.

That bombshell paved the way for McMahon, who is enjoying solid approval ratings — and building a hefty war chest — in advance of his first re-election bid.

But McMahon is still no shoe-in, despite the fact that Democrats outnumber Republicans in the district by a margin of three to two.

The Bay Ridge-Staten Island district is friendly territory for the GOP. In 2008, Republican John McCain took it from future president Barack Obama, 52-48 percent.

But McMahon has a clear fund-raising advantage. By the end of the first quarter of 2010, he had raised \$1,490,302, compared to \$497,321 by Grimm and \$415,502 by Allegretti.

The primary election will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 14. The general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

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